



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Parks and Recreation Minutes 06/11/2002

Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, June 11, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVED - Meeting Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:30 PM.

Commissioners Present: Don Vitters, Leslie Mayer, Joe Carabello, Bernice Jones and Mark McCabe

Staff Present: Jon Jalbert, Patsy Kraemer and Rich Bento

Others Present: Jack Hurd, Adam Glick, Judy Petrie, Gary D., John Voci, Steve Moniak, Barbara Olejarz, Mike Luneau, Sam Oliver, Elizabeth Rocha, Eric Baatz, Charlie Gallagher, Clark Wilke, Peter Feinmann, and Jeffrey Vaz

1. Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of May 14, 2001 and approved 3-0.

2. Judie Petrie- Bulletin Boards

Ms. Petrie would like to see signage at all parks and signage on streets to make it easier to find all parks. She requested bulletin boards or message boards at major parks like at Menotomy and Robbins Farm.

The commission agreed to signage at all parks and street signs leading to the parks. The commission would like to see a standard sign and colors for all the parks. Mr. Jalbert will look into sign and bring some examples and prices to the next meeting. Once a standardized sign is identified and priced, the commission will ask neighborhood groups to assist in fundraising for signs in their neighborhoods.

Cutter Playground- the locations of 2 benches and table were discussed. The price may go over the already deposited amount of \$900 and the Cutter group agreed to come up with the remaining funds.

3. Rick Arena- Bocce Ball court at Grove Street and LL donating fence were postponed

4. Don Vitters- Capital Update

Mr. Vitters handed out the most recent capital plan.

Parallel Park-Work is completed

Crosby- Electric work not installed and the sod and play structures are expected in next week. Tennis courts will be included in capital plan in the near future. Mr. Hurd offered to try and find additional funding from CDBG to make sure the courts are completed next year or two.

Spy Pond- Phasing of project was discussed at the public meeting. Survey work will have to happen and the permit process will start. The Commission would like a bollard to be placed at the emergency ramp.

Robbins Farm- the cost for this project has not been finalized and therefore the decision on phasing the project cannot be made. \$450,000 is allocated to do entire playground and as much of the remaining phases as possible.

Motion was made to defer \$15,000 from Locke Playground one more year to enable phase one. Motion approved 3-0.

Thorndike Field- The temporary fencing will stay until the field is open in the Fall. The field is now under the town.

Roads Corporation- Meeting still has not been scheduled.

Peirce Playground- Mr. Vitters reported the funding will be short to finish this project. Mr. Hurd offered again to speak with

Mr. McClennan and Mr. Farrington about additional funds if any can be found to fund the remaining balance of \$2-3,000.

5. Steve Moniak- Arlington Soccer Club concerns on field permitting

Mr. Moniak presented handouts for their talking points and the Commission reviewed them. Don addressed the Commission's concern with communication and how we all need to be on the same page and work together. Mr. Moniak stated he would like to see changes and receive better field management and leadership from the Commission.

Other Issues that we raised were:

- Having maintenance plans set up on fields before major construction is done to repair fields.
- Trucks being driven onto fields and trash not picked up at some parks.
- Need to have a policy in place to inspect fields frequently enough to determine what work needs to be done on them. Changes need to happen so Thorndike does not meet the same fate as other fields have.
- Weekend and evening field inspections when weather is inclement are non-existent. Mr. Hurd suggested empowering a group of users to determine if a field was open or closed.

Mr. Bento addressed the maintenance issues and informed everyone a company called Prescription Turf Services "PTS" is on contract providing fertilization and treatments to all fields. PTS also provides analysis on field conditions to Mr. Bento. Mr. Bento offered anyone the opportunity to view the reports on their work with him or Mr. Jalbert (who has a copy). Mr. Bento also stated that the field conditions are a result of over use and not maintenance.

Motion was made to form a sub-committee of the Park and Recreation Commission called Fields Subcommittee to address these issues and to provide input on permit policy. The Fields Committee will be made up of representatives from all user groups in-town. Motion approved 5-0. Mr. Carabello will chair the committee.

6. Rich Bento- Irrigation and DPW update

Mr. Bento informed the Commission that he is working on a maintenance contract for the irrigation systems in town.

7. Arlington Sports Center Improvement Committee- Jon Jalbert

Mr. Jalbert will ask Ted O'Leary, the new Facilities Manager to attend the next meeting.

8. Jon Jalbert- Field Permit Policy, Rotation Policy and Other Ideas

Mr. Jalbert will bring this list to the sub committee on fields to have them address these ideas.

9. Leslie Mayer- Florence Field neighbor request

Ms. Mayer presented a letter from Jennifer and Lloyd Potter to install a chain link gate in the current fence to allow access to Florence Field. A motion was made to accept a chain link gate of the same height. DPW will be asked if they can do the work and the family will pay for the gate. Motion was approved 4-0.

10. Jon Jalbert- Recreation and Rink Update

Mr. Jalbert presented a letter from a Tufts University student doing her thesis on friendly signage that is attractive and its effect on people actually following rules. Motion was made to allow her to complete her thesis. Motion approved 4-0.

Mr. Jalbert expressed the need for geese control at Thorndike, Spy Pond and the Reservoir. He asked for any suggestions for this summer.

Mr. Jalbert stated there will be a training for his staff on running the filtration system at the Res this Thursday.

11. Others

Mr. Jalbert was asked to follow up on the Bishop Playground project with DPW.

Ms. Mayer raised the issue of the walking path surrounding the Res becoming unsafe. Ms. Mayer will write up the concerns in a letter to Patsy, who will contact Ed Marlenga on liability to the Town if the pathway is unsafe.

Mr. Jalbert was asked to follow up with Jack Lepore on the Summer St. Fencing and warning track.

The Commission adjourned at 11 pm.

Jon Jalbert, Superintendent of Recreation, took minutes

Bob Sprague
Webmaster, Arlington Online
www.town.arlington.ma.us/